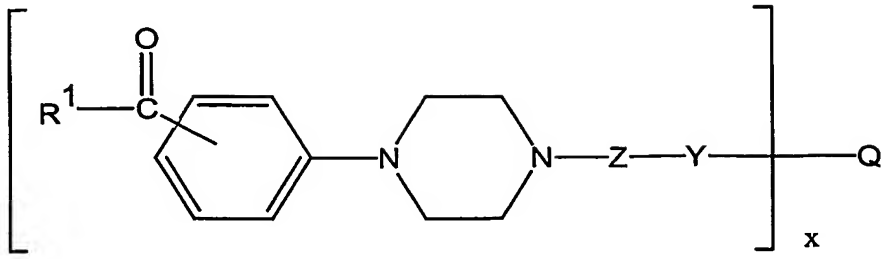
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



where:

R^1 represents a methyl group, an ethyl group, a C_5 or C_6 cycloalkyl group or a C_6- C_{10} aryl group, said aryl group being unsubstituted or being substituted by at least one C_1 - C_4 alkyl or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy group;

Z represents a $C_6 - C_{10}$ arylene group or a group of formula $-(CHR^4)_n-$, where R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group or a $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group, and n is a number from 0 to 6;

Y represents a carbonyl group or a $-CH_2-$ group, provided that R^4 represents a hydroxy group when Y represents a $-CH_2-$ group;

Q represents a residue of a mono- or poly- hydroxy compound having from 1 to 6 hydroxy groups; and

x is a number from 1 to 6;

and esters thereof.

2. A compound according to Claim 1, where Z represents a group of formula $-(CHR^4)_n-$, and n is 1.
3. A compound according to Claim 2, in which R^4 represents a hydrogen atom, a methylgroup or an ethyl group.
4. A compound according to Claim 3, where R^4 represents a hydrogen atom.
5. A compound according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, in which n is a number from 2 to 6 and one group R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group, and the other or others of R^4 represent hydrogen atoms.
6. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, in which Z represents a phenylene group.

7. A compound according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein Q represents a group of formula $-A_x$-Q', where:

A represents a group of formula $-[O(CHR^2CHR^3)_a]_y-$, $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_y-$ or $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_{(y-1)}$-$[O(CHR^2CHR^3)_a]-$; where:

R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or a $C_1 - C_4$ alkyl group;

a is a number from 1 to 2;

b is a number from 4 to 5; and

y is a number from 1 to 10;

x is a number from 1 to 6; and

Q' represents a residue of a mono- or poly- hydroxy compound having from 1 to 6 hydroxy groups.

8. A compound according to Claim 7, in which y is a number from 3 to 10.

9. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula $-[O(CHR^{13}CHR^{14})_a]_y-$ where a is an integer from 1 to 2, and y is a number from 3 to 10.

10. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula $-[OCH_2CH_2]_y-$, $-[OCH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2]_y-$ or $-[OCH(CH_3)CH_2]_y-$, where y is a number from 3 to 10.

11. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_y-$, where b is a number from 4 to 5 and y is a number from 3 to 10.

12. A compound according to Claim 8, in which A represents a group of formula $-[O(CH_2)_bCO]_{(y-1)}$-$[O(CHR^2CHR^1)_a]-$, where a is a number from 1 to 2, b is a number from 4 to 5 and y is a number from 3 to 10.

13. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 12, in which x is 2 and y is a number from 1 to 10.

14. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 13, in which y is a number from 3 to 6.

15. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 14, in which the residue Q-$(A-)_x$ has a molecular weight no greater than 2000.

16. A compound according to Claim 15, in which the residue Q'-$(A-)_x$ has a molecular weight no greater than 1200.

17. A compound according to Claim 16, in which the residue Q'-$(A-)_x$ has a molecular weight

no greater than 1000.

18. A compound according to Claim 17, in which the residue Q'-(A-)$_x$ has a molecular weight no greater than 800.
19. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 18, in which Q' is a residue of a polyalkylene glycol, in which the alkylene part has from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.
20. A compound according to any one of Claims 7 to 18, in which Q' is a residue of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, glycerol, 2,2-propanediol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, trimethylolpropane, di-trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol or di-pentaerythritol.
21. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which x is 1.
22. A compound according to Claim 20, in which Q is the residue of a compound offormula R^1-OH.
23. A compound according to Claim 21, in which Q is a C_1 - C_6 alkoxy group or a phenoxy group.
24. A compound according to Claim 21 or Claim 22, in which Z is a phenylene group.
25. A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, in which Q is a residue of a polyalkylene glycol, in which the alkylene part has from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.
26. A compound according to Claim 25, in which Q is a residue of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, butylene glycol, glycerol, 2,2-propanediol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polybutylene glycol, trimethylolpropane, di-trimethylolpropane, pentaerythritol or di-pentaerythritol.
27. An energy-curable composition comprising: (a) a polymerisable monomer,prepolymer or oligomer; (b) a photoinitiator; and (c) a sensitiser which is a compound of formula (I), as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 26, or an ester thereof.
28. A process for preparing a cured polymeric composition by exposing a composition according to Claim 27 to curing energy.
29. A process according to Claim 28, in which the curing energy is ultraviolet radiation.